

THE
DEFENDERS

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THE DEFENDERS

GUEST-
STARRING THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!



Stan Lee
PRESENTS: THE DYNAMIC DEFENDERS!™

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SAVAGE TIME!

THEY ARE MR. AND MRS. JACK NORRISS--AND THEY ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THEIR RELATIONSHIP! THAT'S WHY, AT JACK'S URGING, THEY'VE COME HERE--TO THE WINDSWEPT CLIFFS OF THE NEW JERSEY PALISADES: TO BE ALONE, TO TALK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS IN THE FEW HOURS BEFORE DAWN BREAKS.

WISH THEM LUCK.
FEW, IF ANY, YOUNG MARRIEDS HAVE EVER HAD PROBLEMS LIKE THIS...!

WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES, BARBARA--TO TRY LIVING TOGETHER AGAIN! WE LOVED EACH OTHER. WE--

MUST I REMIND YOU YET AGAIN, MR. NORRISS? THIS IS YOUR WIFE'S BODY--BUT I AM NOT YOUR WIFE.

AND MY NAME IS VALKYRIE--NOT "BARBARA."

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THE PERSONALITY OF BARBARA NORRISS HAS BEEN SUBMERGED 'NEATH MY OWN BY THE MAGIC OF THE ASGARDIAN ENCHANTRESS.

I AM WHAT I AM--
THE WOMAN WARRIOR,
THE DEFENDER. AND YOU,
MR. NORRISS, ARE A
STRANGER TO MY
EYES AND TO MY
HEART.

BARBARA NORRISS
IS GONE--FOREVER--
AS THOUGH SHE NEVER
EXISTED. YOU MUST
ACCEPT THAT.

ACCEPT THAT MY
WIFE HAS GONE
CRAZY? THAT SHE
BELIEVES SHE'S A
FEMALE ERIK THE
RED ON A FLYING
HORSE?!

I'M
SORRY
BARB,
I CAN'T

YOU MUST, FOR
NEITHER OF US CAN
ALTER MATTERS.
NEITHER OF US CAN
RESURRECT BAR-
BARA... OR THE LIFE
YOU HAD WITH HER.

IT'S
BEST YOU
FORGET--

FORGET?! HOW CAN I FORGET
WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT HERE IN
FRONT OF ME?

DO
SOMETHING
MY WAY FOR
ONCE. INSTEAD
OF FOR-
GETTING...

--LET'S TRY TO REMEMBER!

MURPH

WITHOUT WARNING,
JACK PULLS HER
TOWARD HIM,
PRESSES HIS
LIPS HARD AGAINST
HERS.

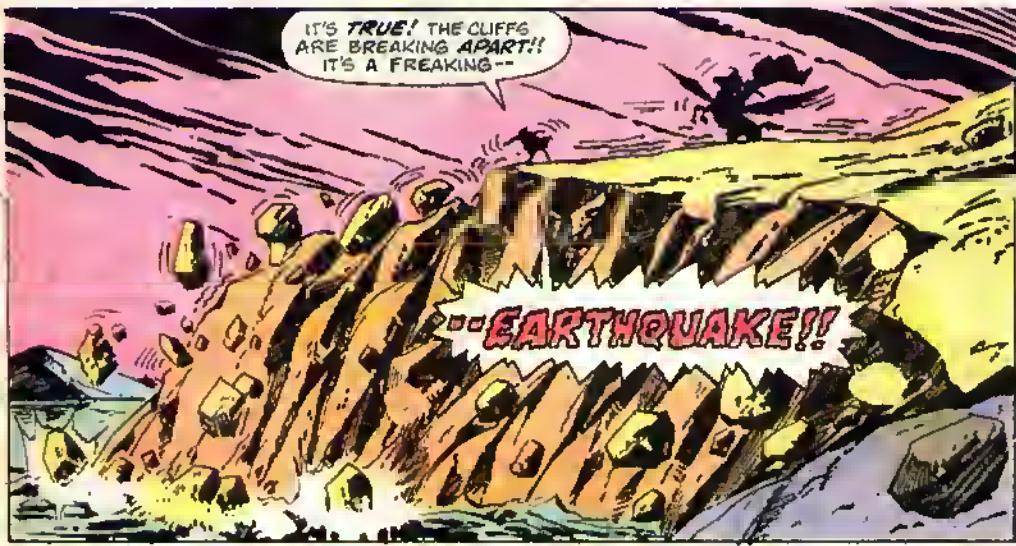
YET FOR ALL ITS PASSION, THE KISS LASTS
BUT A SINGLE, CHILLING MOMENT.

DIDN'T YOU FEEL
IT? DIDN'T YOU
FEEL ANYTHING?

NO.
NOTHING.

AND I
ADVISE YOU
NEVER TO
FORCE YOUR
SELF UPON
ME AGAIN...

...IF
YOU
VALUE
YOUR
LIFE.



AS JACK TUMBLING BACKWARD, VAL PUTS THE DISAGREEABLE EXPERIENCE OF A MOMENT AGO OUT OF HER THOUGHTS.



A MAN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER...



...AND SHE ALONE CAN EFFECT A RESCUE.



AS SHE HAULS JACK ASTRIKE THE WINGED STEED, NORRISS CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER WHICH IS MORE ASTOUNDING -- THE QUAKE, OR HIS WIFE'S PRODIGIOUS STRENGTH?



TH-THIS IS INSANITY! THERE ARE NO EARTHQUAKE FAULTS IN NEW JERSEY!!

IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER, DOC. A TIDAL WAVE SWEEPING TOWARD ENGLAND... TORNADOES IN THE BAHAMAS... AND NOW AN EARTH TREMOR ON THE PALISADES.

THE WEATHER'S GONE COMPLETELY HAYWIRE...



AND THE ONLY EXPLANATION CAN BE THE TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT CAUSED BY OUR ... VISITORS.

VISITORS NOT FROM ANOTHER CITY... NOR NATION... NOR PLANET, BUT FROM EARTH'S FAR FUTURE.

CHARLIE 27, LAST SURVIVOR OF EARTH'S JUPITER COLONY...

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MARTINEX CALCULATED THE PROBABILITIES A HUNDRED TIMES!

MAJOR VANCE ASTRO, 1,000-YEAR-OLD SURVIVOR OF OUR OWN CENTURY.

CHARLIE'S RIGHT. DR. STRANGE, WE TOOK EVERY CONCEIVABLE FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT. WE CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE.

AND YOU LAST OF THE NATIVE RACE OF CENTAURUS III, EARTH'S ONLY INTERSTELLER COLONY.

HULK DOESN'T GET IT. HOW CAN MEN BE FROM TOMORROW WHEN IT'S STILL TONIGHT?

TOGETHER, THEY COMPRIZE THREE-FOURTHS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY, FREEDOM FIGHTERS FROM THE ALIEN- OCCUPIED EARTH OF 3015 AD.

THEY CRASHED ON EARTH IN OUR ERA IN GIANT DEFENDERS #5... JUST HOURS AGO, MARVEL TIME. -- LEN.

THE HULK'S QUESTION GOES TO THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE. THERE IS ONE FACTOR I SUSPECT YOU FAILED TO NOTE: MAJOR ASTROSAGE

WHAT? YOU MEAN THE FACT THAT I EXIST IN THIS ERA AS A CHILD--?

NO ONE MAY OCCUPY TWO SPATIAL POINTS AT THE SAME MOMENT IN ETERNITY. YET -- YOU DO.

AND YOUR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE IMPOSSIBLE MAY SPELL DOOMSDAY, LEST WE HASTEN TO REPAIR YOUR SHIP. AND--

--HAS THOROUGHLY DISRUPTED THE TIME-STREAM, PRECISELY.

THAT IS GONNA BE A PROBLEM, G.O.C. TAKE A LOOK.

"WHAT YOU'RE SEEING IS A GENUINE U.F.O., A SHIP PRESUMABLY OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORIGIN WHICH CAME CRASHING TO EARTH HERE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK A FEW SHORT HOURS AGO.

"AS YOU CAN SEE, THE STRANGE CRAFT HAS BEEN CORDONED OFF BY A CONTINGENT OF NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS, AND WITH GOOD REASON.

"IT SEEMS THE PILOT OF THIS SPACECRAFT HAS SURVIVED THE SHIP'S PLUMMET FROM SPACE AND IS CONCEALING HIMSELF INSIDE.



.. TRAVERSING HUNDREDS
OF MILES IN SCANT
SECONDS...

THEN ARCING DOWNWARD...

... STRIKING THE STARSHIP... AND
MARTINEX... AND YOUNG VANCE
ASTROVIX... AND ENVELOPING
ALL IN A BURST OF CLEAR
WHITE LIGHT.



AND WHEN NEXT THEY APPEAR... THE SIGHT THAT
GREETED THEIR EYES IS A FAR DIFFERENT ONE.



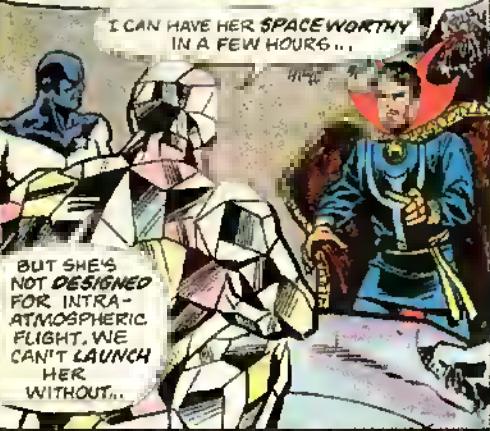
GOOD FRIENDS -- THREE
OF THEM. AND THE OTHER
NEWFOUND ALLIES, TO
SURMISE.

QUITE
CORRECT,
MARTINEX.
WE ARE
PLEASED
TO SEE
YOU SAFE.



BUT WE HAVE LITTLE TIME FOR PLEASANTRIES,
I'M AFRAID. HOW LONG WILL YOU REQUIRE TO
REPAIR THE SHIP? IT IS URGENT THAT I KNOW.

I CAN HAVE HER SPACEWORTHY
IN A FEW HOURS...

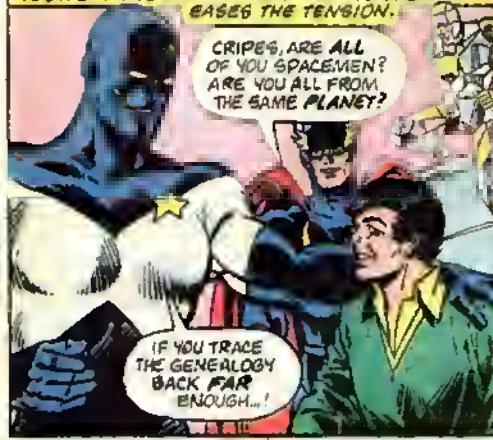


BUT SHE'S
NOT DESIGNED
FOR INTRA-
ATMOSPHERIC
FLIGHT. WE
CAN'T LAUNCH
HER
WITHOUT...



YOU SEE,
THE EARTH IS
GRINDING TO A
HALT ON ITS AXIS
BECAUSE OF YOUR
PRESENCE IN
THIS ERA.

BEFORE ANY OF THE DEFENDERS OR GUARDIANS CAN BRING HIMSELF TO COMMENT FURTHER, YOUNG VANCE'S UNADULTERATED WONDER EASES THE TENSION.



YOU SEEM ODDLY AMUSED, NIGHTHAWK. WHAT IS IT?

I WAS JUST THINKING... ALL THE GOOD ADVICE I COULD GIVE MYSELF... IF I MET A KID NAMED KYLE RICHMOND.

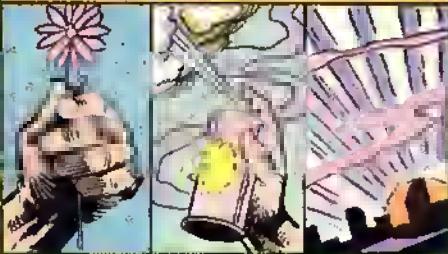


WE USED TO... ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO. BUT THEY WEREN'T CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL AFTER THE OZONE CATASTROPHE.

ALL THE INDOOR AGRICULTURAL SPACE HAD TO BE GIVEN OVER TO FOOD CROPS... OR WE'D HAVE STARVED TO DEATH.



"WE DECIDED WE VALUED DRY ARMPITS AND THE 3-BILLION-DOLLAR AEROSOL INDUSTRY ... OVER OUR FLOWERS, OUR FOOD, AND ULTIMATELY OUR HEALTH. OH, THE SCIENTISTS WARNED US..."



"THEY SAID THE GAS IN THOSE CANS WOULD BREAK DOWN THE OZONE LAYER -- THE WORLD'S PROTECTION FROM THE SUN'S ULTRAVIOLET RAYS -- BUT WE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. NOT UNTIL THE FIRST SKIN CANCER EPIDEMIC IN 1982."

"NOT UNTIL A WALK IN THE SUN BECAME SO DEADLY THAT EVEN TO CROSS THE STREET, WE NEEDED PROTECTIVE CLOTHING OVER EVERY SQUARE INCH OF OUR BODIES."



"THE SUN-SUITS WEREN'T A SOLUTION, THOUGH. THE CANCER RATE CONTINUED TO SOAR. IF WE WERE GOING TO SURVIVE, THERE HAD TO BE A WAY TO REPAIR THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BEING EATEN AWAY BIT-BY-BIT. THE ANSWER WAS BIONICS."



"MECHANICAL REPLACEMENTS FOR HUMAN LIMBS -- AND WE WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO BE PROUD OF THAT GREAT 'ADVANCE'."

"IN 1988, OUR SPACE PROGRAM ENDED WITH A BANG. WE SENT A MAN ON A THOUSAND-YEAR JOURNEY TO THE STARS. AND IT TOOK THE LAST OF OUR FUNDING.



"CONGRESS HAD APPROPRIATED THE REST TO PAY FOR MORE BIONICS RESEARCH.. WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO THE BIONICS WARS OF THE 1990'S. ARMIES OF THOSE MAN-MACHINES FROM EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD FOUGHT OVER THE DWINDLING FOOD SUPPLY.



"IT MIGHT'VE GONE ON FOREVER--
IF NOT FOR ANOTHER DISASTER: A
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EXPLODED,
RENDERING THE WESTERN HALF OF
-- UH, AN AREA THE SIZE OF YOUR
CANADA UNINHABITABLE."



"AND HUMANITY FINALLY CAME TO ITS SENSES. 1995 SAW THE
SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF PEKING... AND THE FORMATION OF
THE FIRST CONFEDERATION OF NATIONS."



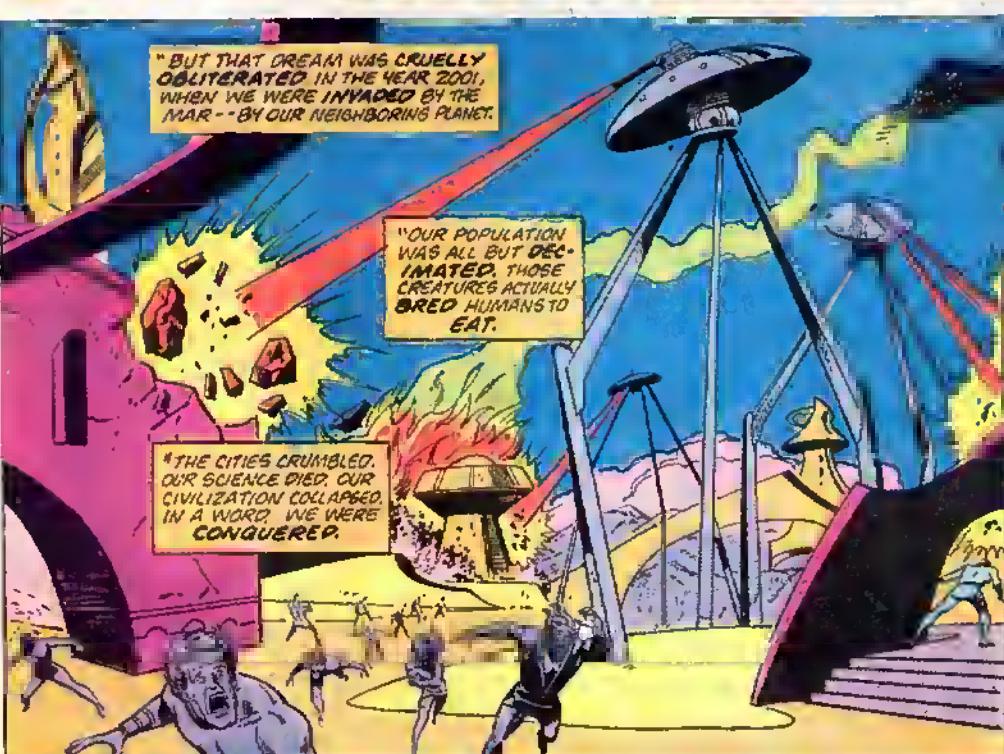
"AT LAST, WE WERE GOING TO
WORK TOGETHER-- AND WE
TURNED OUR TECHNOLOGY
AWAY FROM THE MINDLESS
PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONRY,
PUT IT TO WORK FOR PEOPLE
INSTEAD OF AGAINST THEM.
THE CITIES SLOWLY BEGAN
TO SMILE AND LAUGH AGAIN.
HUMANKIND UNITED-- IT WAS
THE REALIZATION OF A
DREAM."



"BUT THAT DREAM WAS CRUELLY
OBSCURED IN THE YEAR 2001,
WHEN WE WERE INVADED BY THE
MAR-- BY OUR NEIGHBORING PLANET."

"OUR POPULATION
WAS ALL BUT DEC-
IMATED, THOSE
CREATURES ACTUALLY
BRED HUMANS TO
EAT."

"THE CITIES CRUMPLED,
OUR SCIENCE DIED, OUR
CIVILIZATION COLLAPSED.
IN A WORD, WE WERE
CONQUERED."



"THERE ARE NO RELIABLE HISTORIES OF THE PERIOD OF OCCUPATION. LEGEND HAS IT THAT A BAND OF 'FREEMEN' LED BY A CHARISMATIC FIGURE KNOWN AS KILL-RAVEN BEGAN THE REVOLT AGAINST THE INVADERS."

"ALL WE CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN IS THAT BY 2075, THE ALIENS HAD ABANDONED OUR WORLD. WE MAY NEVER KNOW EXACTLY WHEN OR WHY."



"GENETIC ENGINEERING, DEVELOPED UNDER THE TECHNO-BARONS, ALLOWED US TO BRED SUB-SPECIES OF HUMANS TO COLONIZE OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, FROM THE PLANET NEAREST THE SUN..."



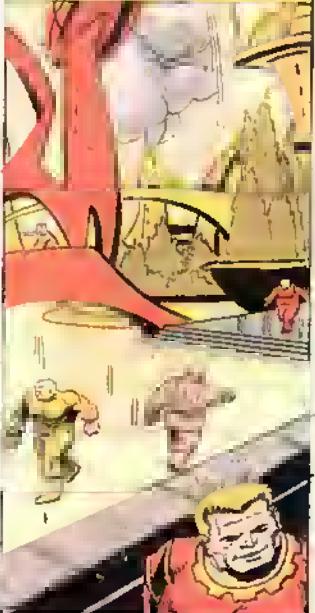
"...TO THE WORLD FURTHEST FROM ITS LIGHT AND WARMTH, THERE, ONLY THE SILICON-MEN OF MARTINEX'S SPECIES COULD SURVIVE."



"IN TIME, WE EVEN OVERCAME THE CONSTRAINTS OF GRAVITY."



"AND WE POPULATED THOSE SPHERES WITH THE MEN AND WOMEN OF CHARLIE'S RACE, WHOSE MASSES AND DENSITY WERE ADAPTED TO THRIVE UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS."



"IT ALL TOOK HUNDREDS OF YEARS, OF COURSE, BUT BY THE MID-2900'S WE'D UNDERTAKEN CONSTRUCTION OF OUR FIRST STARSHIP FLEET."



"TO STUDY THE GAS GIANTS OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, WE BUILT CITY-SPHERES THAT HUNG IN THOSE PLANETS' POISONOUS METHANE-LADEN ATMOSPHERES."

KOLCHAK MOVE OVER! POWER MAN FACES... THE NIGHT SHOCKER!

"AND BY 2860, WE'D REACHED THE NEAREST STAR-SYSTEM TO OUR OWN...

"...AND ESTABLISHED OUR FIRST FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH AN ALIEN RACE.

"THE YEAR 3000 WAS CELEBRATED WITH THE JOINING OF ALL THE COLONIES AS CO-EQUAL PARTNERS IN A UNITED FEDERATION. THE MILLENIUM HAD COME... AND ONLY A THOUSAND YEARS LATE."

FEDERATION OF EARTH

"AND SPEAKING OF LATE -- REMEMBER THAT GUY THEY SENT INTO SPACE BACK IN 1988?

"WELL, IN 3006, HE LANDED -- A 1000-YEAR-OLD PRISONER IN A SUIT OF COPPER FOIL -- A SUIT HE COULDN'T DISCARD, BECAUSE CONTACT WITH THE AIR WOULD REDUCE HIM TO DUST. HIS INTERSTELLAR VOYAGE HAD BEEN MADE A FARCE. MAN WAS ALREADY THERE TO GREET HIM.

"POOR SLOB. HE WAS GIVEN A HERO'S WELCOME ... BUT, SOMEHOW, HE JUST COULDN'T MAKE HIMSELF CARE.

"AT LEAST, NOT UNTIL 3007... WHEN, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT HAPPENED ALL OVER AGAIN. A RACE CALLED THE BADDOON, THIS TIME, THEY CAME OUT OF NOWHERE, QUESTING FOR GALACTIC EMPIRE."

"AND AGAIN OUR CIVILIZATION WAS WRECKED.

"TEN CENTURIES OF HUMAN STUGGLING, A THOUSAND YEARS OF PAINFULLY CLAWING OUR WAY UP FROM THE DREGS -- WIPE OUT IN WHAT SEEMED A MERE INSTANT. WE WERE SLAVES -- FOR THE THIRD TIME."



"THE BAROON GOT ALL THE COLONIES AND FINALLY CAPTURED THE HOMeworld. AND SINCE THEY HAD NO USE FOR US -- ONLY OUR RESOURCES AND OUR LABOR -- THEY ERADICATED MOST OF THE POPULATION BUT WE FOUR SURVIVED -- MARTINEX, CHARLIE, YONDU AND MYSELF."



"AND WE VOWED TO TAKE OUR WORLD BACK! AND OVER EIGHT YEARS, WE'VE HAD A FEW TRIUMPHS -- LIKE SEIZING THE LAST REMAINING SHIP OF THE STAR FLEET TO USE AS OUR TRAVELLING BAGE."



"AND TOGETHER WITH THE HOMeworld UNDERGROUND -- AND SEVERAL HEROES WHO MYSTERIALLY APPEARED OUT OF OUR PLANET'S PAST -- WE'VE MANAGED TO REGAIN CONTROL OF ONE MAJOR CITY."



"THE THING AND CAPT. AMERICA. SEE MARVEL 2-IN-1 #5. -- LEN."

BUT WE'VE STILL A LONG FIGHT AHEAD OF US--
TEN PLANETS TO RECLAIM--AND FIFTY MILLION
HUMANS TO RELEASE FROM BONDAGE. BUT WE'LL--

I--I'M SORRY.
IT'S JUST... ALL THAT
STUFF... IT COULD
HAPPEN HERE, TOO
--COULDN'T IT?

VANCE-- WHAT'S
THE MATTER? ARE
YOU CRYING?

IT COULD, VANCE
...YES, BUT IT
DOESN'T HAVE TO,
IT'S DIFFICULT TO
EXPLAIN... BUT NO
WORLD'S FUTURE IS
PREDESTINED.
ONLY THE PAST IS
ABSOLUTE.

I CAN'T CHANGE
THE HISTORY OF MY
WORLD, BUT YOU
CAN ALTER THE
SHAPE OF THINGS
TO COME.

IS THAT TRUE, DOC? IS AST--
THE MAJOR'S STORY JUST ONE
POSSIBLE DESTINY?

PARADOXICAL THOUGH IT MAY SEEM
...THAT IS CORRECT. SO TAKE HEART,
VANCE. EARTH NEED NOT SUFFER
THE FATE OF THAT OTHER WORLD.

I WAS ABOUT TO SUGGEST
PRECISELY THAT. MERELY CLOSE
YOUR EYES... ENVISION THE
HOUSE WHEREIN YOU DWELL...



...AND BY THE
POWER OF THE
ETERNAL VISHANTI,
YOU SHALL BE
THERE!



SUDDENLY, THE SOUND OF MASSIVE PINIONS SLAPPING AGAINST THE NIGHT AIR DIRECTS ALL EYES SKYWARD TO...



I WOULD ADVISE YOU EMPLOY SOME OTHER NICKNAME FOR MR. NORRIS IN HIS PRESENCE, NIGHTHAWK. WE HAVE TROUBLES ENOUGH.



IT'S DONE, DR. STRANGE. THE HULK AND I HAMMERED OUT THE DENTS WITH OUR FISTS, AND WE HAD JUST ENOUGH EMERGENCY SEALANT ABOARD TO FILL IN THE CRACKS.



IF WE CAN GET HER INTO SPACE



BARBARA -- HOLD IT! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?! THAT CRAZY THING WON'T FLY!!



AND I SHAN'T ASK YOU NICELY AGAIN -- TO KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF ME!!



MOMENTS LATER, WITHIN THE SHIP...

YOU ARE COMING
WITH US, DOCTOR--
YOU AND YOUR
FRIENDS?

WE'VE NAMED OURSELVES
EARTH'S DEFENDERS, YONDU.
IF WE WOULD BE TRUE TO
THAT MISSION, WE COULD
NOT DO OTHERWISE.



THE NIGHT OF THE DEFENDERS, TURNED
AGAINST THE SAVAGE EMPIRE OF THE
BADDOON -- BUT NOT BEFORE YOU MEET
THE MYSTERIOUS BEING KNOWN ONLY AS--

THE STARHAWK!

NEXT